Annual Report

2012-2014
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With my appointment as the Director of Women’s Studies and Development Centre in the year 2013, I have found an opportunity to explore the area of gender along with different aspects pertaining to the gender studies. In the past one year, WSDC has touched another remarkable stage of having completed its 25 years of existence in the University of Delhi. This celebration got completed with the release of an edited book based on the writings of the scholars who have been associated with WSDC in the past 25 years. The title of the book is Women’s Studies in India: A Journey of 25 Years. The book was released by The Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi, Prof. Malashri Lal, which brought a special recognition to the academic commitment of WSDC.

Along with its regular activities of teaching, research and annual workshop on Feminist Theories, WSDC convened an International Seminar in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS), Shimla on “Locating Gender in the New Middle Class in India”. The Seminar proved to be platform for many eminent national and international scholars to converge and discuss on different themes pertaining to the topic. It was recognized that Gender and New Middle Class is an important area in which WSDC aims to enter and explore for its future research projects.

The faculty at WSDC had a substantial contribution in the national and international level publications, which further added to the academic pursuits of the centre towards Gender Studies.

I feel extremely proud to be associated with WSDC and extend my support, guidance and wishes to the academic endeavours and activities of the centre.

Prof. Bharati Baveja  
Director, Women’s Studies and Development Centre  
Professor, Department of Education  
University of Delhi
Women’s Studies and Development Centre (WSDC), University of Delhi was established in 1987 as a result of University of Delhi’s response to UGC’s call to address women’s concerns in higher education. Since then WSDC has covered a long distance by expanding its programmes and activities. WSDC has completed 25 years in April 2012.

During the last twenty five years it has been guided and nurtured by eminent women professors as directors, who brought-in their subject expertise to women’s studies. Prof. Susheela Kaushik, the founder-director belonged to the discipline of Political Science. Prof. Malashri Lal who followed as the second director was a Professor of English and is currently the Dean of Colleges and Dean of Academic Activities and Projects at the University of Delhi. The third director Prof. Vibha Chaturvedi was grounded in theoretical concepts as she was formally trained in the subject of Philosophy. Forth director of the centre was Prof. Sushma Batra from the field of social work. The fifth director was Prof. Madhu Vij, Professor of Finance from the Faculty of Management Studies. The present director of the centre, Prof. Bharati Baveja, is from the Department of Education and excels in pedagogy and the psychology of teaching. WSDC’s journey with these directors has been very enriching and diversified as a result of the diverse input provided by them. Dr. Manjeet Bhatia, the permanent faculty at the Centre has provided the necessary support and continuity.

The Centre has made long strides in the direction of teaching, research and action. It made a beginning as a catalyst in higher education and started focusing in raising awareness on women’s issues and their complete absence in the teaching of various disciplines. The centre runs short courses and UGC refresher courses in Women’s Studies. As a result of its sustained efforts, women’s studies components were gradually introduced in social sciences and humanities. WSDC regularly convenes national and international seminar on current gender studies issues. The latest being on the New Middle Class.

WSDC keep on modifying its courses and offers special five days national workshop on Feminist Theories, using multiple methods. It has convened many refresher courses on various themes, the latest one was on Human Rights and Gender. WSDC networks with local, national and international institutions along with intra and inter university bodies.

Right from the early years of its inception, the center took-up several research projects along with the national research project on girl child in collaboration with 22 other UGC women’s studies centers. Some of the important research projects completed by the Centre are:

- Pilot Project on the “Role of Women in Freedom Struggle in India” was sponsored by Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi and completed in December 1988.
- Women in Politics: Regional Cross-Cultural Research Project was sponsored by UNESCO, Bangkok, which was completed in 1989.
- Briquettes from Coffee Waste was sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and completed in 1992.
- Girl Child and Family was sponsored by Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India and completed in 1993.
- Rehabilitation of the Children of Prostitute was sponsored by Ministry of Welfare, Govt. of India and completed in 1993.
- Child Labour among Girls was sponsored by Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India, completed in April 1994.
- Women and The Population Issues was sponsored by UNICEF and completed in 1995.
- Tenth Lok Sabha Elections: Study of Two Constituencies – Hapur-Ghaziabad and South Calcutta” was sponsored by National Commission for Women and completed in May 1996.
• Project ‘Assessment of Attitudinal Difference towards Girl Child in Selected Districts of North India’ under the leadership of WSDC, 2006.

• Strategies to Operationalise Legislation on Domestic Violence against Women: India and United Kingdom, 2006-07.

• Developing Indian Perspectives on Feminist Theory and Methodology” 2005.


• Assessment of Attitudinal Difference towards Girl Child in Selected Districts of North India, 2005-09.

• Gender Audit of Delhi University 2008.


• Marriage, Autonomy and Engendered Violence: A Study of North West India 2014.

II. CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF WOMEN’S STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Seminar of UGC Women Studies Centres on Women’s Studies: Achievements, Challenges and Future Directions

Year 2013 marks the completion of 25 years of Women’s Studies (WS) in Indian higher education. To commemorate 25 years of Women’s Studies in higher education, WSDC organized a two days seminar “Women’s Studies: Achievements, Challenges and Future Directions” from 6th March, 2013 to 7th March, 2013. The purpose of this seminar was to review the various issues and ramifications that have evolved in the last 25 years in higher education for UGC Women’s Studies Centre across India, in terms of challenges like teaching long term programmes, developing newer areas of capacity building, ‘domestic violence’, ‘gender budgeting’, and the latest issue of ‘transgender’. The seminar started with inaugural address by Prof. Susheela Kaushik, Founding Director of WSDC. 26 participants (Directors/ Faculty) from 7 Phase-III, 6 Phase- II and 3 Phase- I UGC centres all across the country participated in this seminar. Phase-III and Advanced centres gave presentations on various level of teaching and other academic activities of their centres. Seminar ended with an Open House discussion on various issues and difficulties related to teaching, in which representatives of all Phase centres participated. Purpose of this discussion was to jointly deliberate on the direction WS should take and administrative/ pedagogical difficulties of WS centres across India. Issue and suggestions emerged during this discussion were referred to UGC.
**Book Release**

An edited book titled “Women’s Studies in India: A Journey of 25 Years”, was released by Prof. Malashri Lal, Dean of Colleges, on 20 February 2014. Women’s Studies and Development Centre (WSDC) at the University of Delhi completed its journey of 25 years in 2013 as this Centre was one of the first four centres sponsored by UGC in late eighties. During this journey various scholars got associated with the Centre in various research projects, seminars and workshops and contributed to its academic and extension activities. This book, edited by Madhu Vij, Manjeet Bhatia and Shelly Pandey, is an acknowledgement of this association and the collective effort of the scholars that have brought significance to the Centre.
(a) Marriage, Autonomy and Engendered Violence: A Study of North West India.

Project in-charge: Prof. Bharati Baveja

Principal Investigator: Dr. Manjeet Bhatia

The project collected data from four states – Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan with the help of local coordinators who worked at the grass roots. The study showed that ‘honour killing’ is spread in the western UP and Jat dominated districts of Haryana; whereas in Punjab and in Rajasthan it is spread over all regions. In Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh it is the land owing community that mostly indulge in this crime. Sagotra marriage, marriage in same village and inter-caste marriages and even class had been the major reasons for ‘honour killings’; where as in Rajasthan issue had been of free choice in marriage which had been hardly resulting in killings. Inter-caste marriages though had been resulting in major wrath against dalits in Rajasthan.

Local police mostly is hand in gloves in perpetuating the tradition. Case after case it showed that police is partial and uses such occasion to take bribe.

It is the voluntary women’s groups that provide sustained support to victims and their families. Their networks come to the rescue of victims. Victims are hardly aware of their rights and whom to contact in case of threat.

‘Honour killings’ establish utter subjugation of women. Family members of women can kill their own daughter in cold blood indicate the extreme asymmetry of power in gender relations in the agricultural dominated economy in which women have no property control.

Field trip at Meerut during the Honor Killing Project

Project in-charge: Prof. Bharati Baveja

Project Coordinator and Investigators: Dr. Shelly Tara

Funded by Indo-Sri-Lanka Foundation, the aims of the study were:

- To scrutinize the state policies with regard to promotion of women in the decision making process in the work sphere in India and Sri Lanka.
- To enquire into the obstacles faced by women in the advancement of their career as the key decision makers.
- To study the perception of the women in such decision making positions towards the prevalent gender stereotypes.
- To study the perception of the male counterparts in the office towards women decision makers and leaders.

The project has been successfully completed and the report of the project has been submitted to the Indo-Sri Lanka Foundation. A team of three member visited Sri Lanka in 2013 to complete the fieldwork there. The report is divided in total seven chapters out of which four are findings based chapters, which include the narratives of gendered experiences at the decision making positions, locating absence of women at the top, networking and morality and work-life balance. The study indicates that there has been very slow inclusion of women at the decision making positions in both the countries and the work-environment is still very men-centred. However, along with the same the measures to overcome the gender inequality in the public arena were also discussed and analyzed. Broadly the suggestions indicated that policies should not be aimed towards helping women to adapt to a male-centred work environment but rather discourage gender stereotyping at the workplace of all kinds. Keeping all these measures in perspective, there can be an attempt to make the higher decision making positions, gender sensitive and gender inclusive.
IV. TEACHING/TRAINING

The Centre conducts short-term certificate courses in Women and Gender Studies for students at undergraduate, post graduate and research level. Syllabi for these courses are prepared with the help of external faculties and are regularly reviewed and updated. For refresher course, every year a new theme is chosen.

(a) Post Graduate Certificate Course: Gender and Society (August-October 2012 & 2013)

Two Post Graduate Certificate courses on “Gender and Society” were conducted by WSDC, from August to October 2012-2013. These courses provided a basic understanding to the students about the discipline of women’s studies. The minimum eligibility of this course is graduation in any stream. Women’s studies and development, Concept of gender, Feminist theories, Women and law with a special focus on India, were some of the themes covered during the courses. Dr Shelly Pandey was the Course Coordinator and Dr. Manjeet Bhatia was the Course Consultant. Some of the guest lecturers, who visited WSDC during the courses were- Dr. Krishna Menon, Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Prof. Mary E. John and Dr. Albeena Shakil etc. A workshop on ‘Women in leadership’ was also organized as part of the course in which Prof. Mala Sinha and Prof. Kavita Singh from Faculty of Management Studies gave lectures on Women and leadership from Mythological and contemporary perspectives. In 2012 total 39 students and in 2013 total 30 students participated in this course. In 2013 the major highlight of the course was the presentations made by the students based on the readings given to them as per their background. Students were examined on the basis of their paper presentations.

(b) Advanced Certificate Course in Gender Studies (December- March 2012-2013 & 2013-2014)

WSDC offered two Advance Certificate Courses in Gender Studies for post graduate students from December to March 2012-2013. Dr. Manjeet Bhatia Coordinated and assisted by Dr. Shelly Pandey. Prof. Shefali Moitra, who was present during the course as a visiting faculty at WSDC took some of the lectures during the course. The major areas covered were women’s studies as a discipline, concept of gender, feminist theories, women and law, Gender and Policies and research methodologies. Resource persons for these courses were eminent scholars in their respective field including: Prof. H. Ramachandran, Prof. N.K. Chadha, Prof. V.K. Srivastava, Prof. Mary E. John, Dr. Vageshwari Deswal and Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda. Dr. Manjeet Bhatia introduced the audio-visual techniques to make their research more impactful and invited Ms. Seema Goyal from Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID). Five days national workshops on Feminist Theories: Indian Context (2012) and Feminist Theories and Debates (2013) were also organized as part of this course. The aim of this course is to equip the students to pursue research in Gender Studies & to integrate gender concerns with their ongoing research. In 2012 total 15 students and in 2013 total 17 students participated in the course. In 2013, special additions in the course were the lectures by Dr. Shelly Pandey on the writing for research publication and how to write a good literature review. As the majority of the students of this course are the research scholars, these lectures were found to be very useful by the students for their own research and for the assignments submitted by them. The students were examined on the basis of class participation, project presentations and written projects.

(c) Refresher Course on Women Studies for University Teachers (2012, 2013)

The 14th Refresher Course The refresher course on Women’s Studies, Gender Studies was coordinated by WSDC and was convened by Dr. Bijaylakshmi Nanda and Ms. Shubra. The theme of the course was women’s rights as human rights. Considering the theme, the course was designed to address the idea of human rights and women’s rights within the context of inter-sectionalinity of issues.
Resource persons included a varied range from academicians, experts, researchers, government authorities, activists, theatre artistes and field workers including P.K Datta, Prem Chowdhry, Prof. Shashi Motilal, Dr. Nirmalaya Samanta, Prof. Vibha Chaturvedi, Prof. Vidhu Verma, Dr. Satish Agnihotri, Uma Chakravarti, Dr. Krishna Menon, Dr. Meena Bhargava, Dr. Anshu, Prof. Patricia Uberoi, Amrit Basra, Nonica Datta, Mahuya Bandhopadhaya, Dr. Indu Agnihotri and Kamla Bhasin. An interactive and intensely participatory mode was adopted to enhance a two way learning process where the participants of the course would be able to enrich the discussions and debates around the issue.

Field trip was undertaken to map areas of University of Delhi and its rich heritage. Evaluators from different disciplines were invited to evaluate their area specific discipline presentations, They included Indira Prasad (English), Amrit Basra (History), Urvashi Dhamija (Political Science) and Vandita Arora (Sanskrit). This course had total 31 participants.

The 15th Refresher course was conducted in 2013 in which Dr. Vinay Bhardwaj and Dr. Babita Verma were the conveners. Total number of participants were 30. The list of resource persons included, Dr. Lata Singh, Nivedita Menon, Prof. Anupama Roy, Prof. Mary John and Prof. Ved Kumari. The participants were evaluated on the basis of the presentations made by them on the topics related to gender.
V. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Manjeet Bhatia wrote a module on Women and Issues of Culture: Religion and Ideology. Some cases - Shah Bano, Roop kanwar for Women’s Studies of the UGC Scheme of e-Pathshala.

WSDC prepared an interdisciplinary paper to be offered to the students of MA as an optional paper. A team of five members made the paper including the experts like, prof. Shefali Moitra, Dr. Krishna Menon, Dr. Vasudha Pande, Dr. Manjeet Bhatia and Dr. Shelly Pandey.

VI. PUBLICATIONS


VII. SEMINAR /WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCES

(a) National Seminar on Women and Higher Education: Challenges and Prospects

WSDC collaborated with The University Women’s Association of Delhi, affiliated to International Federation of University Women to organize a National Seminar on Women and Higher Education: Challenges and Prospects on 22 Feb. 2013. The theme was perceived as an important area for exploring issues of gender equity and space by addressing the question, whether Higher Education in India continues to be gendered. Papers on related topics were invited.

On the basis of the interest evinced, three broad areas were delineated:

1. Gendered Higher Education
2. Higher Education: Issues of Access and Equity
3. Breaking Gender Stereotypes

Dr. Shelly Pandey made a presentation on Globalization and issues of Higher education in India.

(b) Workshop on feminist theories: Indian Context

WSDC organized its workshop in the series on Feminist Theories from 28th January to 1st February 2013. However, this year the emphasis was on Indian context. Idea of discussing Indian context emerged out of the earlier two. The workshop enabled the participants to have an in-depth understanding of the theoretical debates around feminism and to apply them in Indian context. Lectures of the workshop were:

1. Inaugural Lecture by Prof. Indu Agnihotri of Centre for Women’s Development Studies
2. Existential Feminism by Prof. Shefali Moitra, Jadavpur University
3. Liberal Feminism by Prof. Vibha Chaturvedi, Centre for Women’s Development Studies.
4. Dalit Feminism by Dr. Krishna Menon, Lady Shri Ram College.
5. Socialist Feminism, Dr. Vasudha Pande, Institute of Lifelong Learning.
6. Post-Modern Feminism, Dr. Jayati Lal, Ambedeker University.
7. Psychoanalysis and Feminism by Dr. Anup Dhar, Ambedeker University.
8. Literary Feminism by Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar, Zakir Hussain College.
9. Radical Feminism by Dr. Shelly Tara and Dr. Manjeet Bhatia, WSDC.
10. Padma Vibhushan, Guru Dr. Sonal Mansingh’s Lecture on her dance act- ‘Aatmaya’
11. Valedictory Lecture by Prof. J.P.S. Uberoi.

Every day ended with enthralling cultural programs like- Movie screening of ‘Izzatnagari Ki Asabhya Betiyaan’ with its director Mr. Nakul Singh Sawnhney, staging of a play ‘Sarkari Feminism’ by internationally acclaimed ‘Pandies Theatre Group’. Such sessions highlighted the Indian context, taking bold examples from daily lives and Indian mythology and led to engaging discussions.

Total 25 participants, who were teachers and research scholars from different universities and various subject disciplines across the India, participated in the workshop. It was an interactive workshop where-in all the participants were divided into groups and made presentations on the different feminist theories discussed in the workshop. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Vivek Suneja and Dean Academics and Projects Prof. Malashri Lal from Delhi University also chaired some sessions in the workshop.
Workshop on Feminist Theories and Debates

The Centre organized a workshop titled: “Feminist Theories and Debates” from 2nd to 6th December 2013. In this workshop total 20 teachers and scholars from different universities and institutions from all over India came to participate. Apart from Liberal, Radical and socialist feminism, the workshop discussed the issues pertaining to Globalization and Psychoanalysis and Feminism.

One of the major highlights of the workshop was that one whole day of the seminar was dedicated to the Psychoanalysis and Feminism by Dr. Anup Dhar. One documentary was also shown during the workshop titled Blood in My Hand by Ms. Anandana Kapoor. All the participants appreciated the mixed method approach of the workshop in which they were taught the tenets of feminism through multiple methodologies including Audio-Video Methods.
(d) International Seminar on Locating Gender in the New Middle Class in India

Under abled guidance of Prof Bharati Baveja, director, WSDC, Dr Bhatia convened an International Seminar- Locating Gender in the new middle class in Collaboration with IIAS, 12-14, March 2014 at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) Shimla.

Prof. Chetan Singh, Director IIAS and Prof. Bharati Baveja, Director WSDC inaugurated the seminar and welcomed the participants. Dr Manjeet Bhatia, Introduced the seminar. Out of 21 abstracts accepted for the seminar, 17 papers were presented around multiple aspects of gender and the new middle class. Through different sub-themes of the seminar various areas were discussed which included: Gender and migration; Consumption and desire; Making of media and gender, Social media and its role in mobilisation; Assisted reproductive technology and consumption; Gendered spaces and morality; Home as a site of gender relations; Work as a site of opportunities and gender relations; Politics and the new middle class; and literary representation of the Papers ranged from ethnographic case studies to data based analysis.

Seminar was an intersection of scholars from different subject disciples and training. The seminar in its three days’ deliberations tried to understand the changing gender relations in the framework of the new middle class. Papers reinforced that middle class is not a homogenous category. On the one hand several new entrants are shaping this class in their own ways, while on the other; the privileged identity is guarded through several practices. Consumption stands out as an important practice of all the categories of this class.

There are several sites of change in gender relations which have emerged post 1991 economic liberalisation. Prof. Raka Ray discussed one such site at Mumbai. She referred to the entertainment industry which is growing at the pace of 10% and is a 3 billion US $ industry. It attracts migration of both young men and women to try their luck in this industry. Many new opportunities for fresh talent have emerged with opening of reality shows in the otherwise kinship oriented industry. She compared gender difference in this migrant group in terms of domestic background, struggle, and treatment by the industry. Even though women as compared to migrant men were brighter and had better background, stereotype cultural images of women did affect adversely their chances of success and fulfilment of their dreams. Yet they were happy having taken the plunge. In another context, Prof. Indu Agnihotri observed that young girls from small towns are lured to do such jobs in bigger cities that the city girl would not accept. Interjections further suggested that girls in small towns too are looking forward to such opportunities.
Middle class’s political engagement in movement against corruption, post Dec 16 agitation in Delhi and rise of Aam Admi Party (AAP) was the focus of papers under the sub theme – Neoliberal paradigm and changing political questions: gender, caste and politics. Papers focused on the safety of women in metro cities. Prof. Indu Agnihotri, Dr. Kumool Abbi and Dr. Albeena Shakil welcomed the youth reaction to 16th December that shook the country. Social media played an important role in this up-rise. Dr. Shakil suggested that Capital has dominant culture of the adjoining villages around its borders. She argued that it is the intersection of very different cultures in close proximity that makes the capital city unsafe for women.

Prof. Agnihotri argued that questions of governance that AAP had been making central in Delhi State election, were the issues women of resettlement colonies been raising since many years in their interaction with women organisations. Middle class cannot overlook engaging with this underbelly while becoming politically active. She felt that questions of middle class have been made central to create acceptance for globalisation policies of the government. India is fast becoming hub of medical tourism. Assisted reproductive technology, on the one hand, are offering hope to childless couples, on the other, they are offering opportunity to earn for the poor women though, at the cost of making her body available in the absence of any government policy to protect her rights. Such a technology (egg freezing, for instance) is also offering possibility of earning a quick buck by home makers and young students for their special needs and style. Papers presented by Dr. Jyotsna A. Gupta and Dr. Sayeda Sakira Sahin showed that it is the middle man and clinics which are earning from use of these technologies. Most of the women are not aware of the medical risks involved. To this date there is no law, just guidelines to govern the use of ART. Media has played an important role in the making of the market oriented economy that needs to create consumption. Media itself had to undergo surgery with blurring of distinction between advertising and editorial content, infotainment getting intertwined with news and advertisers becoming the new target audience. Along with media makeover emerged new woman as the consumer. Papers by Ms Pamela Philipose, Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta and Dr. Haripriya Narasimhan using advertisements, case studies of those watching television serials showed that there is a paradigm shift from notion of satisfaction to notion of greed as value. Prof Dasgupta even used the expression- ‘I shop, therefore I am’ to describe the new consumer. Television serial are trying to retain the traditional family values and are missing the need to grapple with real change in gender relations.

Family, as established by feminist scholarship is the hub of patriarchal culture. It is not surprising that home has become the site of change in the changing economy. Ethnographic case studies of Prof. Alice Clark showed that daughters of different class and caste families are getting family support for gaining higher education, availing occupational opportunities and even for migration. Yet the larger picture built by the Indian human development survey based on the data from the 4000 house hold in the 33 Indian states did not corroborate the micro picture developed by the ethnographic study. Data shared by Prof. Sonal Desai showed limitations on decision making, mobility and work of women among the middle income quintiles. It also showed that both qualitative and quantitative studies are required to ascertain the real change in gender relations in the new middle class. The notion of motherhood was explored by Dr. Shelly Pandey and Dr. Manjeet Bhatia in the context of globalizing India. Young mothers are not only taking the challenge of making global citizens they are also trying to balance it with their work and self-identity. A comparison between the senior mothers who facilitated their daughters to avail new opportunities and young mothers trying to face new challenges is an important area where gender relations are being carved out.

Prof Sanjay Srivastava argued that contemporary consumerism is a tool to display morality of modern middle class. Such an analysis was more in the context of contemporary woman as she is traditionally seen as a non-consumer. Taking the example of upscale gated community living and women groups moving in Akshardham complex enjoying the freedom with the assurance of returning to the safe cocoon of traditional mannerism, is the woman as new consumer, who is not determined by modernity, but
can take part in it and also return to traditionality. Whereas, the study by Smita Agarwal based on the interviews of students of a small town showed that middle class values such as, control on women and taboo on consumption of alcohol by women remain intact. Though, desires of young people are making some dent in the traditional thinking, yet the larger cultural picture remains patriarchal. It was pointed out that inclusion of caste as one of methodological factor in this ongoing study would further qualify it. Women and changing work opportunities, educational qualification and work environment came up for discussion in three papers. Education has direct link with the expansion of job opportunities for women. It is the graduate group of women who needs to be watched to understand work and women. Prof. Preet Rustagi argued that the overall employment opportunities have not expanded as much as the presence of women into the same. Though, the primary sector jobs are less available for women, and there is marginal gain in the manufacturing sector, in the service sector there is a substantial gain for women. Women have gained in some of the other sectors too, like, retail, education, health care, diagnostic services, communication, information technology etc. The analysis of employment status of women from different quintiles showed that the major change is visible for the women of those families who are entering the middle class that is either close to poor or middle income households.

An in-depth study by Prof. Sarawati Raju and Ms. Tanusree Paul, on the middle class white collared working women of Kolkata showed hindrances in decision making in the back drop of the nature of family (extended/nuclear), placement of women in work hierarchy, marital status and number of children she has. Gender relations at work place have come under scrutiny as more women are gaining education and are coming for work. Sexual harassment is one such aspect that was paid attention through interviews with corporate sector employees in the light of new law to address it. Mr. Vineet Pandey shared that the law is welcomed by the employees. It instils some sense of security in the women employees as under the new law employer is duty bound to make a complaint committee. The corporate sector also appears to have gained as it can get away with paltry sum as compensation to the victim as compared to huge sums earlier paid by some companies. The law came under criticism for having destroyed the democratic process set in by Vishaka guidelines which ensured inclusiveness and better structures of these committees.

Poetry offers ordering of one’s experiences through self reflection. Women had been groping with their life experiences of change. Literary representation of such struggles can be revealing. Dr. Sukrita P. Kumar chose to use this form of expression to share women’s experience of change. She read a few poems written by her and other poetesses. She presented on the subject: mother and the metaphor of old giving way to the new. Open discussion in the concluding session brought in some reflections on the important outcomes of the deliberations. Brief outcome of each session was presented by Dr. Manjeet Bhatia. Prof. U Kalpagam summarised these as two sets, one pertaining to the process of formation of gender and the other dealing with reconstitution of it. It was pointed out that there is a need to assimilate the changes at the structural levels based on the micro level studies and discussion. Given the diversity of the Indian context, contextual specificities should be explored further. The exploration of the middle class from the language’s perspective should also be analysed to understand how the middle class can be looked at in other languages. It is interesting to note that mostly, ‘new middle class’ is not expressed in any other language but in English.

Self-reflexivity of women came as an important area to be explored to understand everyday life experiences of women as well as men. More analyses of the changes occurring in masculinities and the lives of men in the middle class context came up as a very important area. How the issue of aging is handled and how the older people’s lives are affected in this period of change is also needed to be looked at. The seminar was interdisciplinary where economist, historians, political scientist, sociologists, journalist, demographer, researchers, geographer, academicians from literature and gender participated. International and national paper presenters represented 6 institutions and 8 universities.
VIII. PAPERS PRESENTED BY WSDC FACULTY

- Dr. Shelly Pandey and Dr. Manjeet Bhatia presented a paper “New Meanings of Motherhood in Globalizing Middle Class Homes in India” in an International seminar on Locating Gender in the New Middle Class in India at IIAS, Shimla on 12th March 2014.
- Dr. Shelly Pandey, presented a paper in a National seminar organized by The University Women’s Association of Delhi, affiliated to International Federation of University Women, on Women and Higher Education: Challenges and Prospects on 22 Feb.2013, Title of the paper- Globalization and Issues of Higher education for women in India.
- Dr. Manjeet Bhatia presented a paper on Gender and Legal Interventions in the one-day National seminar on “Rethinking Women’s issues in Contemporary India” on 12th January, 2013 at Jai Hind College Mumbai.
- Dr. Manjeet Bhatia made a presentation on Theorizing Gender: Honor killings at UGC refresher course in Women’s Studies at Rajasthan University on 18th October 2012.

IX. WORKSHOPS/ INVITED LECTURES/ PANEL DISCUSSIONS ATTENDED BY WSDC FACULTY

- Dr. Shelly Pandey was invited for a lecture at Jesus and Mary College University of Delhi on Understanding Feminism in March 2014.
- Dr. Manjeet Bhatia judged a debate in the Open Court Event at the LSR college in February 2014.
- Dr. Manjeet Bhatia was invited by National Law University, Jodhpur to give a plenary address at The National Seminar on Forthcoming Feminisms: Gender Activism in Law, Literature and Society organised by the NLU on 8th February, 2014. She spoke on ‘Gender and New Middle Class: Some Intersections’. Address was followed by interesting interaction and question answer session. She also chaired a session of the seminar.
- Dr. Shelly Pandey was invited for a talk in the Film Festival 70mm at Rajdhani College, University of Delhi for a session on defining feminine spaces on 10th October 2013.
- Dr. Manjeet Bhatia was invited by Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Viswavidyalay, Wardha to give an half a day session in the Workshop on Research Methodology in Women’s Studies. She made a presentation on Domestic violence and research, on 26th September, 2013. The presentation was followed by a prolonged discussion and question answer session. She also met researchers in a separate session to discuss research projects of the students.
- Dr. Manjeet Bhatia made a presentation on ‘Honour Killings’ at The National Seminar at Himachal University sponsored by ICSSR, on 23th August, 2013.
- Dr. Manjeet Bhatia participated in a six days workshop on Audio-visual method (AVM ) from 4-9th March, 2013. The workshop was attended by select 20 academics from different universities/ colleges of India. The workshop focused on the tool of audio-video that can be used by social sciences to do and disseminate research. It was a mix of lectures and hand-on trainings. Participants were divided in groups and each group made a film as part of assignment.
- Dr. Shelly Pandey was one of the panellist at a panel discussion on Evaluation of Working Women’s Hostel with a Day Care Centre in India organized by School of Gender and Development Studies, IGNOU on 6th Oct 2012.
- Dr. Shelly Pandey was one of the Panellist at a panel discussion for ‘Women at Margins’ organized by the Dept of Psychology at Lady Shri Ram College for Women on the 31st of October 2012.
X. ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ACTION

(a) Celebration of International Women’s Day

Women’s Studies and Development Centre celebrated International Women’s Day on 8th March 2013. On this occasion a workshop for Delhi University student members of Sexual Harassment Committees was organized. Aim of this workshop was to make students aware of various aspects of Ordinance XV- D, which is part of the policy on Sexual Harassment of the University of Delhi to create an environment free from gendered discriminations and sexual harassment. Director Prof. Madhu Vij gave a presentation on ordinance XV- D, which was followed by interactive session to solve various queries of students regarding the ordinance. The workshop observed enthusiastic participation of 32 undergraduate students from 15 colleges of the University of Delhi from diverse streams and backgrounds. Members of Delhi University Student’s Union along with their president Arun Huda also participated in this workshop. Students participated actively in many discussions around XV- D and a slogan writing competition. The celebration was aimed towards encouraging students to spread awareness about the issue in their respective colleges.

(b) Play on Sexual Harassment against Women

A play on Sexual Harassment, written and directed by Rupam Gupta from Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, was conducted in collaboration with CIE, as new way of learning and teaching the gender realities. The title of the play was Two Faces. The theme of the play was that Character is the foundation of man’s existence in the society. But when he destroys this foundation in the blindfold of anger, obsession and ego, nothing remains except shackles of regret, humiliation and despair. But, what about second chances?
XI. VISITING FELLOW AT WSDC

WSDC welcomed its visiting fellow Prof. Shefali Moitra from Kolkata in January 2013. Prof. Shefali Moitra, retired professor from Jadavpur University, came as a visiting fellow from 16th to 31st January 2013. She delivered two lectures in the Advance Course in Gender Studies and one Lecture in The Workshop on Feminist Theories: Indian Context on Existential Feminism. She also contributed in the course development meetings at WSDC.

XII. LIBRARY

With a modest beginning in 1987, the WSDC library is one of the well equipped libraries on gender studies in Delhi. The library presently houses more than 11000 books and subscribes to four peer reviewed journals on gender issues like gender, sex, development, human rights, religion, law, research methodology etc. Apart from this, the library has a collection of UN reports, reports of the 112 projects conducted by the center, dictionaries, encyclopedias and 50 documentary films on gender issues. The library is an open access library and now provides services to post graduate students, research scholars and faculty members of university of Delhi. Besides this regular use, scholars and visiting fellows from different universities of the world visit the library and make valuable use of its resources.
XIII. MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 2012

A meeting of the Advisory Committee of Women’s Studies and Development Centre (WSDC) was held on 04-09-2012.

Following were present:
1. Prof. Vivek Suneja (Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Chairperson)
2. Prof. Malashri Lal (Dean, Academic Activities and Projects)
   1. Prof. Madhu Vij (Director, WSDC)
   2. Prof. Asha Kaushik (Ex-Director, CWSD, Rajasthan)
3. Dr. Minoti Chatterjee (Principal, Kamla Nehru College).
4. Dr. Manjeet Bhatia (WSDC)
5. Dr. Shelly Pandey (WSDC)

The Director shared a brief report about the activities of the Centre for the period February 2012 to August 2012. The meeting ended with the discussion on the future activities, which include:

The members applauded that the Centre has maintained itself in Phase III in spite of difficulties. The Director brought the attention of the members towards the need for filling the faculty positions approved by the UGC.

The need for the centre to have more faculty member was discussed but they also insisted that the Centre must have a proposal for the long term course first to go further on the issue of new faculty.

The members agreed that for future plans the Centre should start a degree programme and before that the Centre should aim to come under the ordinance that allows it for long term teaching. In discussing future plans, the Advisory Committee members emphasized again that WSDC should start degree programs. It was recalled that the same recommendation had been made at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee. It was noted that no institutional steps had been taken in that direction.
### XIV. WSDC CALENDER OF IMPORTANT EVENTS (2012–2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Aug 2012</td>
<td>Commencement of certificate course on Gender and Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Sep 2012</td>
<td>A meeting with the Advisory Committee was held.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Sep 2012</td>
<td>Commencement of UGC Refresher Course in Women’s Studies (29 Sep to 15 Oct 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 Oct 2012</td>
<td>Dr. Shelly Pandey participated in Panel Discussion as a panelist for Evaluation of Working Women’s Hostel with a Day Care Centre in India, organized by IGNOU.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Oct 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Nov 2013</td>
<td>Commencement of Advance Certificate Course on Gender Studies.</td>
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<td>20 Nov 2013</td>
<td>Valedictory of certificate course on Gender and Society.</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Commencement of the Workshop on Feminist Theories and Debates (02-12-2013 to 06-12-2012).</td>
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<td>19 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Commencement of UGC Refresher Course on Women’s Studies (19 Dec 2013- 2 Jan 2014 and 12- 19 march 2014)</td>
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<td>10 Jan 2014</td>
<td>Dr. Shelly Pandey was invited for a lecture at Jesus and Mary College on Violence, Masculinities and conceptualizing social change in India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>08 Feb 2014</td>
<td>Dr. Manjeet Bhatia was invited by National Law University, Jodhpur to give a plenary address at The National Seminar on Forthcoming Feminisms.</td>
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<td>07 March 2014</td>
<td>Dr. Manjeet Bhatia judged debate in the open court event at LSR.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 March 2014</td>
<td>Commencement of the International Seminar on Locating Gender in the New Middle Class in collaboration with IIAS Shimla (11-13 March 2014).</td>
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<td>12 March 2014</td>
<td>Dr. Shelly Pandey and Dr. Manjeet Bhatia Presented a paper New Meanings of Motherhood in Globalizing Middle Class Homes in India at IIAS Shimla.</td>
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XV. FACULTY AND STAFF AT WSDC

Prof. Bharati Baveja, Director
Dr. Manjeet Bhatia, Assistant Professor
Dr. Shelly Pandey, Research Associate
Ms. Anita Gupta, Coordinator - ICC
Ms. Anshu Bala, Office Assistant

Mr. Madhusudan, Semi Professional Assistant
Ms. Rita Singhal, Junior Assistant
Ms. Anju Sharma, Junior Assistant
Ms. Nirmala, Multitask
Mr. Vivek Kumar, Office Attendant
WSDC organized an International Seminar in collaboration with Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla on Locating Gender in the New Middle Class in India at IIAS from 11-13 March 2014.